

OSSIAN SWEET HOUSE

DETROIT



The murder trial of African American physician Ossian Sweet, his wife, Gladys, and nine others was one of the most celebrated cases in Detroit's legal history. The Honorable Frank Murphy, a future Michigan governor and U.S. Supreme Court Justice, presided, and eminent attorney Clarence Darrow defended the Sweets, making the case that a man has the right to protect his home, regardless of his race. The trial ended in a hung jury with the judge declaring a mistrial. The events surrounding the case took place in front of the Sweet's modest bungalow. The long overdue marker was dedicated during the national convention of the National Association of Black Prosecutors. The house remains a private residence, but the marker, which received national media coverage, continues to draw attention. Most importantly, the children who walk by the house each day to school, will understand the significance of the events that occurred at that site.

Location: 2905 Garland Avenue
Applicant/Sponsor: National Association of Black Prosecutors
Marker Erected: 2004
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517.373.1630 - STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE - www.michigan.gov/shpo

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